

Message Text

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E.O. LL652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: ILO STUDIES AND THE GENEVA GROUP'

1. SUMMARY: CHIEF FRENCH GOVERNMENT DELEGATE TO ILO IN INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH LABATT AND QUAI OFFICIAL, EXPRESSED UNCERTAINTY REGARDING PURPOSE OF GENEVA GROUP PROJECT, NEW DIRECTIONS FOR ILO. DELEGATE STATED GOF WOULD NOT OPPOSE PROJECT AS MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, BUT WOULD PROBABLY GO ALONG WITH MAJORITY OF GENEVA GROUP. GOF CONCERNED ONLY TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF EFFORT AND UNFAVORABLE REFLECTION ON ILO. END SUMMARY.

2. ALEXANDRE PARODI, CHIEF GOF DELEGATE TO ILO, INVITED LABATT AND M. MASSENET OF QUAAI 2 MARCH "TO CHAT INFORMALLY" ABOUT THE NEW DIRECTIONS FOR ILO PROGRAM LAUNCHED BY GENEVA GROUP. THE QUESTION RAISED BY PARODI AND LABATT'S COMMENTS MADE "ON PERSONAL BASIS" WERE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) PARODI WONDERED WHAT MIGHT BE PURPOSE OF THE L2 STUDIES PROPOSED BY GENEVA GROUP, ESPECIALLY SINCE 8 OF THE SUBJECTS PROPOSED OVERLAP GENERALLY WITH THE PRINCIPAL TARGETS OF THE ILO PROGRAM FOR 1976-1981.

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LABATT THOUGHT THAT PURPOSE OF STUDIES WAS TO PROVIDE

ILO WITH NEW IDEAS, OPEN NEW PERSPECTIVES AND POINT NEW DIRECTION FOR ILO RESEARCH AND ACTION ON EACH OF SUBJECTS INVOLVED. IN OTHER WORDS, STUDIES SHOULD SERVE AS STIMULUS FOR FRESH LOOK AT PROBLEMS, NOT AS SUBSTITUTE FOR ILO INDEPENDENT EFFORT.

(B) BY TAKING THIS INITIATIVE, IS THE GENEVA GROUP SEEKING TO EXPAND ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE? LABATT SAID THAT HE DID NOT THINK THIS WAS THE CASE. GENEVA GROUP SIMPLY ACTED AS HANDY MECHANISM FOR COORDINATING ASSIGNMENT ON AGREED¹² SUBJECTS. PARODI ACCEPTED THIS AS A SATISFYING EXPLANATION.

(C) NONE OF THE THREE PARTICIPANTS HAD ANY THOUGHTS ABOUT HOW, WHEN COMPLETED, THESE "NATIONAL" STUDIES SHOULD BE PRESENTED TO ILO SO AS TO CARRY THE WEIGHT NEEDED TO ACCOMPLISH THE PURPOSES IN (A) ABOVE.

3. PARODI SAID THAT HE WAS STILL LESS THAN FULLY SATISFIED AS TO THE PRECISE PURPOSE AND APPROPRIATENESS OF THE PROPOSED STUDIES, BUT DID NOT THINK THAT GOF WOULD OPPOSE THEM AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE. GOF WILL SIMPLY GO ALONG WITH MAJORITY OF GENEVA GROUP, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. GOF'S CHOICE OF SUBJECT WILL DEPEND UPON EXPERTISE OF CIVIL SERVANT AVAILABLE TO UNDERTAKE THE STUDY. HE FELT ATTRACTED TO IDEA OF GOF DOING SOMETHING IN AREA OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING, BECAUSE HE THOUGHT FRANCE HAS MADE SPECIAL EFFORT IN THIS DIRECTION (TRUE). HE EXPRESSED NO DISAPPOINTMENT, HOWEVER, WHEN TOLD THAT JAPAN HAD ALREADY OFFERED TO TAKE THIS SUBJECT.

4. COMMENT: PARODI SEEMED GENUINELY PUZZLED BY GENEVA G GROUP'S SCHEME FOR NEW DIRECTIONS FOR ILO, WHICH SUGGESTS PERHAPS THAT FRENCH MEMBER OF GENEVA GROUP HAD NOT SENT PARIS A THOROUGH REPORT ON THE SUBJECT. PARODI'S APPARENT CONCERN WAS TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF EFFORT BY ILO AND GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS, AND TO FORESTALL ANY UNFAVORABLE REFLECTION ON ILO BECAUSE OF THE GENEVA GROUP'S INITIATIVE.
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